DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 279 176 FL 016 484

AUTHOR Aijmer, Karin
TITLE Go To and Will in Spoken English.
PUB DATE 84
NOTE 18p.; In: Ringbom, Hakan, Ed,; Rissanen, Matti, Ed. Proceedings from the Nordic Conference for English Studies Finland, May 19-21, 1983); see FL 016 498.
PUB TYPE Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142) -- Speeches/Conference Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Communication Skills; Diachronic Linguistics; *English; Interaction; *Language Usage; *Oral Language; Qualitative Research; *Semantics; Standard Spoken Usage; Statistical Analysis; *Tenses (Grammar); *Verbs

ABSTRACT

A study of the semantic factors determining the choice of "go to" and "will" in some varieties of spoken English looks at intentionality and premeditation, imminence, observation, presence on the scene of action, certainty, inference and observation, knowledge and certainty, present relevance and immediacy of action, children's acquisition of future forms, and the diachronic development of future forms. The choice is determined by the particular perspective chosen by the speaker in the communication situation (the speaker's knowledge and intentions, where he is, what he can observe, and his involvement in the future action) rather than by semantic factors inherent in a particular form. "Go to" is seen as conveying a subjective perspective on the event while "will" conveys that the future is more objective or psychologically detached. The report outlines the distinctions characterizing the choice of "to go" and harmonizing distinctions relevant to that choice. (MSE)

**********
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
**********

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

N. Enkvist

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Karin Aijmer
The English Department
University of Lund

# GO TO AND WILL IN SPOKEN ENGLISH

## 1. Introduction

The aim of this paper is to investigate the semantic factors determining the choice of go to and will in some varieties of spoken English as represented in the London-Lund Corpus of Spoken English. (See Appendix.)

There are many problems involving future forms. One problem is that the form used to refer to the future has many meanings. Furthermore there is considerable overlap between the different meanings allowing 'an almost imperceptible passage from one (meaning) to another' (Fleischman 1982:19). There is for instance no fixed borderline between an imminent event and an event in the near future. Diachronically these 'meanings' represent different stages of semantic change. It is also noteworthy that several meanings can occur at the same time in a form: go to can be associated both with Certainty and Imminence.

When a form has many meanings it is common to look for a 'Gesamtbedeutung' (a sort of lowest common denominator uniting all the uses of the form). The search for a Gesamtbedeutung for the go to construction has led to a lot of fruitless discussion however. It is always possible to find examples which show that a proposed distinction does not have a 100% validity and thus cannot be used to establish a contrast between will and go to.

The typical situation is instead as follows: there are a large number of distinctions which can be made by a particular form. Some of these distinctions tend to occur together. 'A considerable part of the difficulties (in accounting for tense, mood and aspect categories) we think are due to the fact that one has to deal with a large number of closely related distinctions which tend to merge with each other in complex combinations' (Dahl 1980:18). Following Greenberg 1963 and Dahl 1980 I have found it useful to refer to factors which occur together as harmonizing. Certain factors (combinations of factors) are typical, frequent and normal and represent a prototype. Other combinations of properties are less typical or do not occur at all. The factors conditioning the choice of a certain form may be more or less strong.By



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ED279176

FL016484

this I mean that a factor can be present in both will and go to but with different force. If a factor is always present when a form is used, this does not mean that it is meaningful to identify it with its meaning however. Many investigators have for instance described go to as having Present Relevance. This factor (to be discussed below) is present whenever we use go to. Present Relevance distinguishes between will and go to but it does not indicate which go to contexts are prototypical.

The prototype or prototypical combination of factors is particularly important in language acquisition. When the child learns a new form he first learns how it is used in a typical context of use and then its meaning. He does not learn a semantic label applicable to all the uses of the form. Diachronically a prototypical use of the form can be expected to correspond to a meaning which is earlier in time than a none-prototypical use and serves as the focus from which its other uses can be derived.

There are two ways in which we can refer to the time of an event. We can look at time 'from the outside' in which case the temporal event has objective existence. The alternative is that the event exists in the mind of the speaker. In the philosophy of time a distinction is made between 'external' (abstract, static) time and 'internal' (experience, dynamic) time (Fleischman 1982:28f). It is typical of forms in the language referring to the future that they describe a future event as existing within the mind of the speaker and as representing 'internal' or experienced time. The future event is intended, wished, hoped for or feared by the speaker. There are other ways in which an utterance about the future can be influenced by the speaker. It can be determinted by what he knows about the future, his control of the outcome of the future event and by how clearly he can perceive the future.

## 2. Semantic Factors Determining the Choice of Go to

In the following section I try to answer the following questions. What factors influence the choice of go to? If there are several factors, which of these are harmonizing?

### 2.1 Intentionality and Premeditation

Actions spring out of intentions. The intention to act can be preceded by planning and a decision to act (Premeditation)[1]. An intention which is the

result of planning and a decision to act can be expressed by go to.

(1) I'm going to explore there's a bus you can get all the way (S 7 1 a 2850)

The speaker's intention to explore has been planned beforehand. It is the result of the information 'there's a bus you can get all the way'.

(2) I've left the keys behind

B how are you going to get in

Even if the intention referred to in the go to clause is placed in the present, the decision itself (and planning) must have taken place prior to the moment of speech. B's utterance can be paraphrased as 'how had you arranged to get in'. Go to implies that an event in the past (planning for the future) has consequences for the present (the intention to act) and for the future (the actualization of the future action).

Intention requires a human subject, often the speaker himself who is involved in the future action. One device showing the speaker's involvement in the future event is the use of a first person subject. Speaker-Involvement harmonizes with Intention.

Both will and go to can have the meanings Intention (Premeditation and Speaker-Involvement). The proportions of the various factors are not the same in the two forms however. Literally (I) will refers to the speaker's wish, readiness and willingness to carry out an action. The speaker's will to act gives rise to an intention and to the action itself. The three factors Intention, Premeditation and Speaker-Involvement are represented in

(3) Anyway I'll do what I can to ask the other people however (S 1.2 1206)

(4) Have you got a pen I'll leave a message (S1 8360)

(5) and after that I shall have another week pretty hard about say the seventh to the fourteenth of August - I'll be doing the Burgos award from twentieth to the twenty-fifth but really I've got about three weeks less than that ... the rest of the time I'll have plenty of time to deal with them. (S 1 8 148)

Less typically will occurs with a third person subject expressing the notions Intention and Premeditation.

(6) I did get a postcard from him saying that the thing is now ready and that he will send it by the end of June (S 1 1 79)

When will has the meaning Intention (and Premeditation) it can be exchanged for go to. Will is less typically associated with Premeditation than go to as is illustrated by the following examples.

(7) I'll see you this afternoon then (S 7 2b 1270)

(8) I'll be out at the Salad Street entrance then (S 7 2 d 2360)

(9) Well we'll see you at eight (S 7 a b 6590)

(10) and I'll post off Rita's parcel shall I (S 7 2b 1000)

Will does not presuppose that the speaker has made earlier plans. The speaker makes a proposal that he should do something to which the addressee is asked to consent.

If go to is substituted for will in the examples above, the meaning is changed. So for instance in (11).

(11) Well we are going to meet you at eight

Furthermore it is the speaker who decides what is going to happen. His mind will not be changed if the hearer has a different opinion. As a result go to often sounds more emphatic and certain than will.[2]

Summing up the previous discussion we could say that the difference between will and go to has to do with the degree to which a factor conditions the choice of a certain form rather than with the type of factor involved. Will can combine the factors Speaker-Involvement, Intention and Premeditation. The factor Premeditation is less common in will than in go to however.

Prototypical contexts of use for a form are of special interest to pinpoint. I shall discuss contexts where go to is maximally distinct from will.

Intentionality and Premeditation must be expressed by go to if the intention took place in past time.

(12) I was going to pop in you know (S 1 3 1051)

As a preliminary to discussing other examples where go to is obligatory, it is useful to think about how a human action comes about. We can look upon the various stages of an action as a movement from its planning to its realization by the speaker in the future. An action which is the result of planning has a purpose. The purpose of the action refers to the desired, planned, outcome of the action. It functions as the reason for the action (causes an action). When we speak about a purpose and its result it is necessary to use go to rather than will. Consider

(13) I must go down to the bank you see and catch this twenth-eight I'm going to have a new gear-box in my car and I'm going to collect it tomorrow. (S1 1 4271)

(cf the similar example in Close 1977:148 'I must get my tennis racket, I'm going to play with Dick this afternoon)

In (12) the purpose of the action is the speaker's prior decision to have a new gear-box in his car. This is the reason for his present need to go to the bank.[3]

The relation Purpose-Result is also found in conditional sentences (Haegeman 1977). This explains that go to cannot be substituted for will in

(14) If you're going to have a picture - if you're going to confer a picture into your room it's got to be well painted (S 1 8 109)

(15) I must have this if I'm going to write this booklet (S 1 3 173)

(16) but if you're going to provide anything at all useful about the language it can't be limited by the time factor (S 1 5 603)

Go to refers to the (purpose) of the action in the main clause. Consider for instance the first example. The addressee's desire is to decorate his room by means of a picture. This purpose can be fulfilled if one has a picture which is well painted. The addressee must therefore have a picture which is well painted if this purpose is to be achieved.

The second pronoun you can be the generalized 'you' and the time referred to generic.

(17) If you're going to boil eggs communally they must be hard (S 1 3 798)
(Whenever you wish to ...)

2.2 Imminence, Observation, Presence on the Scene of Action, Certainty

Go to can convey that the action is about to happen (Imminent action).

(18) he's going to bowl to Barrington (S 10 1 4080)

(19) Miteff dropping his left hand very low - as if he's going to start slinging into the body (S 10 3 899740)

(20) Look. The boy is going to make a landing (LOB)

An imminent action like any other future action is only hypothetical. It is always possible that it will be prevented from coming about by unforeseen circumstances. Speakers do now however remain neutral concerning the realization or non-realization of the future event. If the event is imminent, the speaker is certain that it will happen and has a clear image of its taking place in the future. The future event is so to speak already taking place in the speaker's consciousness.

The speaker's location on the scene of action when he makes an utterance about the future also influences the choice of future form. Consider the examples above and the following examples from the Sports Commentary:

(21) and he's going to get four runs (S 10 1 830)

(22) It's going to be taken by Trevor Hockey (S 10 2 25) (also quoted by Palmer 1979)

The place where the speaker is at the moment of speech is non-distinct from the place where the future action is expected to take place. The speaker/sportscaster is observing a current activity which has the future action as its ending-point. This is another factor influencing the choice of go to.

These examples also illustrate another distinction, namely Certainty. In (21) the cricketer has almost completed his four runs and (from the speaker's point of view) there is no possibility that the future event will take place. The future event is therefore certain.

All the factors mentioned in this section are harmonizing distinctions: Imminence, Observation (of an ongoing activity preceding the future action), Presence on the Scene of Action and (Objective) Certainty. These describe the situation that the speaker 'looks into the future' . It is almost as if he participates himself in the future event. When these factors are present we can expect go to to be used. If will is used, it is untypical and infrequent:

(23) Princess Anne will just pass out of the entrance now (S 6 b 62 2690)

2.3 Inference and Observation

Sometimes go to refers to what the speaker infers. It is clear that there are present circumstances leading to the future event, but the envisaged future event is not close enough in time to be Imminent.

(24) I think there is going to be a storm (LOB)

(25) It looked as though the old man Archie was going to fight his way back (S 10 4 c 950)

(26) and she's always feeling she is going to be thrown out of the staff dining room (S 1 3 1196)

(27) and there/is/going to be three three (S10 9910)

(28) and now they're sitting down to race in real earnest but it's going to be a seven furlong race (S 10 4 a 7600)

In (28) the speaker observes signs of the approaching storm. Example (26) illustrates that the speaker infers something from a physical sensation in the presence. The notion inference is gradable in its application. It is expressed by will in

(29) so it looks as if he'll be able to do it (S 10 4c 17)

2.4 Knowledge and Certainty

Go to is also used when it has neither the meaning Intention nor Imminence among its influencing factors. Go to conveys that the speaker knows that the future event will take place. When the speaker conveys that he knows something the question of evidence is relevant. It must have been established in the present that the future event will take place. On the other hand when the speaker uses will he only expresses his conviction or opinion that something will take place. The question concerning present circumstances does not arise. In many examples it is difficult to say if the speaker knows something or only holds an opinion. The folloiwng pair of examples is therefore of interest because it shows that go to and will contrast along this dimension.

(30) Mary is going to get married

(31) Mary will get married

One cannot normally know in advance that another person will get married. To be certain the speaker must know what the girl intends to do. (30) seems to imply that the speaker has been told that Mary intends to marry John. The

will future can only tell us that the speaker thinks she will get married.

A prototypical context of use for go to expressing knowledge is also illustrated by

(32) How can one tell one's fifteen-year-old daughter that she is going to be blind (from the TV serial 'The Little House on the Prairie')

The speaker knows that the girl will be blind because he has been told that the girl's present illness will (inevitably) lead to blindness at some time in the future. The will future would sound strange in this context. It is pointless to assume that somebody will be blind without evidence.

We cannot normally know what is going to happen to another person unless we 'control'[4] the outcome of the future event.

(33) This isn't going to hurt you. You're going to have a nice, long sleep (LOB)

The patient is going to be given an injection. The doctor/nurse knows that it won't hurt because of his/her medical expertise. Will cannot be substituted for go to; it would refer to what the speaker thinks will happen, not to what he 'knows'.

If the speaker himself determines whether the action will take place he also knows what is going to happen. Consider

(34) You're going to die Elliot and the girl can go with you (LOB)

The speaker knows that the future event will take place within the foreseeable future. If will is used in the example above, the implication is that the speaker is not personally involved in E's death. The future event is located at a temporally remote time and the speaker does not foresee when this will be.

Another way in which one can exert control of the future is by a decision to do something (e g to make a certain footwear shade popular):

(35) as in one of the new Ardingtons shown in the rich dark brown which is going to be one of the autumn's footwear shades for men

The fashion makers have decided to make dark brown popular.

An event that the speaker 'controls' because he is determined to do it or because he knows for some reason that it will take place are typically certain or inevitable. The future event is also certain if it is about to happen (cf p). On the basis of this correlation we can say that Certainty correlates with Imminence and Speaker's Knowledge.

2.5 Present Relevance and Immediacy of Action

It is characteristic of go to that the future is not regarded in the context in which it happens but as associated with the present. The grammatical distinction corresponding to this psychological association between present and future has to do with aspect rather than with tense. Fleischman refers to it as Present Relevance. It is defined as 'an aspectual notion signaling the establishment of a connection between "now" and "hot-now"'. (1982:19).

The relationship between the present and the future is causative. The future action is seen as the result of a present decision, a purpose, a present tendency, symptoms in the present or present knowledge. If a future event is associated with the present (Present Relevance) it tends to be located in the immediate future.

Immediate future also harmonizes with Presence on the Scene (and Observation). This means that if the future event is located at the place where the speaker is at the moment of speech, it is likely that it will refer to the immediate future (or something imminent).

Another factor which harmonizes with Immediate future is Speaker-Involvement (and Intentionality).

(36) (blackboard scribbling) we're going to analyse this mathematically see what type of wave motion results (S 10 7c 100 70)

(37) I'm going to hold the key down and this has the effect of releasing the damper (S 10 8 b 9330)

(38) now I'm going to play three higher notes and we'll just listen to them (S 10 8 b)

Untypical cases are not uncommon however:

(39) we're going to change that next year (S 10 10233)

3. Children's Acquisition of Future Forms

As we have seen there are a number of ways of referring to future time events, some of which are more prototypical than others. Children's acquisition of future forms can show which ways of categorising a future event are the most prototypical ones. What we know about how children refer to the future can therefore confirm the results arrived at in the previous part of this

paper. When children first refer to the future they talk about something which will take place in the immediate future and which is certain to occur (Harner 1976). Immediacy of action and the modal dimension Certainty come before the 'purely' temporal meaning (reference to future time without any association with the present). The auxiliary most frequently used by children (from 3 to 8 years) in describing immediate future events was go to in an investigation by Harner.

4. The Diachronic Development of Future Forms

The future forms of language can be looked upon as strategies by means of which one can refer to future time in different ways. (Cf Fleischman 1982) Such strategies change over time. Diachronically the categories used to refer to future time in English were at one stage closely related to the present. The reference to future time severed from the present is a later development.

In the earliest examples of the go to, go is a verb of motion governing an adverbial infinitive of purpose. The notion of spatial advance (motion towards) undergoes a change to the notion 'temporal advance' (motion from the present to the future). We can look upon the change as taking place in the following manner.

The speaker can include within the present a moment from the imminent fugure (King 1983). The present describes the speaker's internal (or experienced) time. When the action refers to the future (rather than to something imminent), the future event is regarded as 'connected' with the present rather than included within it. The first example showing that the change has taken place attested by OED comes from 1482 (quoted by Wekker 1976:29).

Thys unhappy soule....was goying to be brought into helle for the synne and onleful lustys of her body (Monk of Evesham (Arb)43)

Go to refers to an intended future action.

The meaning Intention is present in contexts permitting this interpretation: there is a human subject capable of premeditation. Another factor which is present is Immediacy of action. My documentation comes from Harada (1958:322): 'the fundamental meaning of be + going + to infinitive seems to be intention, and near future was inseparably blended with it at the earliest stage of its development'. (The source of the quotation is Wekker 1976.) (Cf also Scheffer 1975).

The factor originally associated with go to defines a prototypical context. New meanings can be extended from the original prototype according to certain principles.

Will starts out as a modal auxiliary with the meaning Volition. We distinguish two consecutive developments depending on whether the subject is the first or the third person. With a first person subject will acquires the meaning Intention (Volition > (Willingness) > Intention). In the third person will develops the meaning future reference. When will loses its meaning Volition (with an inanimate subject) it refers to the concrete manifestations that we associate with Volition (Björkstam 1919:214). The change can be illustrated by the example 'the house will fall'. The earliest interpretation is that the house shows signs that it is going to fall in the immediate future.

The future interpretation of will depends on the speaker's certainty that something will take place (in the near future). It is not a fact based on present circumstances.

In present-day English will and go to have distinct (prototypical) meanings. This can be explained in a diachronic perspective. The original dynamic meaning implying movement from present to future[5] in go to is for instance preserved as the grammatical notion Present Relevance which distinguishes between go to and will.

## 5. Conclusion

Go to is associated with a speaker perspective on the future event. The speaker's knowledge and intentions at the present time, where he is, what he can observe and his involvement in the future action play a role for the choice of go to.

The distinctions which have been discussed as characterizing the use of go to are:

a. the speaker intends to carry out the future action (Intention)
b. the speaker has planned or made arrangements for the future event (Premeditation)

c. the future event is about to take place (Imminence)
d. the speaker is present on the scene where the future action is expected to take place (Presence on the Scene)
e. the speaker observes some current activity which has the future event as its ending-point (Observation)
f. the future event is located in the immediate future (Immediate Future)
g. the speaker knows for some reason that the future event will take place (Knowledge)
h. the future event can be inferred from the speaker's present sensations (Inference)
i. it is certain that the future event will take place (Certainty)
j. the future time is connected with the present (Present Relevance)
k. the speaker is involved in the future event (Speaker-Involvement)

The following sets of harmonizing distinctions were seen to be relevant to the choice of go to:
Intention, Premeditation, Speaker-Involvement, Immediate Future, Present Relevance
Imminence (Immediate Future), Presence on the Scene, Observation, Certainty Present Relevance
Inference, Present Relevance
Knowledge, Certainty, Present Relevance

In between the meanings defined by these sets of harmonizing distinctions there are areas of vagueness. The speaker can choose either go to or will to convey the intended message. The choice is determined by the particular perspective chosen by the speaker in the communication situation rather than by semantic factors inherent in a particular form. Go to conveys a subjective perspective on the event while will conveys that the future is more objective or psychologically detached (Fleischman 1982:96).

NOTES

1. Many investigators have discussed the factor 'Premeditation' in connection with go to. See e g Fleischman 1982:89).
2. Bouma 1975:328 discusses the difference between 'I'm going to the library' and 'I'll go to the library. About the go to construction he says that 'the event is presented as a future fact (factual assertion rather than relative assertion) leaving no room for further hedging or consideration of an alternative proposal by the addressee.'
3. At the garage however it is more natural to say 'I'll have a new gear-box in my car, please'.
4. The notion (speaker) control which I have found useful in my analysis of go to has earlier been used by C Platzack to describe kommer att/go to in Swedish (Platzack 1976).
5. According to Fleischman 1982:79 the go to future reflects instead a 'moving ego' perspective (it is not time which moves but 'man moves to meet time, the latter viewed as static').

REFERENCES

Björkstam, H. 1919. De modala hjälpverben i svenskan. Lund

Bouma, L. 1975. 'The Modals of German and English'. Lingua 313-334.

Close, R.A. 1977. 'Some Observations on the Meaning and Function of Verb Phrases Having Future Time Reference' in Studies in English Usage, ed. by Bald, W.D. and R. Ibson. Frankfurt and Bern.

Dahl, Ö. 1980. 'Tense-Mood-Aspect Progress Report'. Gothenburg Papers in Theoretical Linguistics 41. Göteborg.

Fleischman, S. 1982. The Future in Thought and Language. Diachronic Evidence from the Romance. Cambridge.

Greenberg, J. 1963. 'Some Universals of Grammar with Particular Reference to the Order of Meaningful Elements'. In Universals of Language ed. by Greenberg, J. MIT press.

Haegeman, L. 1977. 'To be going to. The Use of Paraphrase in Semantic Interpretation' in Studia Germanica Gandensia 18. 5-14.

Harada, S. 1958.'The Be + Going + To-Infinitive form in Shakespeare.' In: Studies in English Grammar and Linguistics, A Miscellany in Honour of Takanobu Otsuka, ed. by K. Araki et al.: 317-322. Tokyo: Kenkyusha.

Harner, L. 1976. 'Children's understanding of Reference to Past and Future' in Journal of Psycholingustic Research.

King, L.D. 1983. Tense, Orientation and Aspect in Lingua.

Lancaster-Oslo/Bergen Corpus of British English, for Use with Digital Computers 1978 by Stig Johansson in collaboration with G.N. Leech and Helen Goodluck, Department of English, University of Oslo (LOB)

Palmer, F.R. 1979. Modality and the English Modals. London and New York

Platzack, C. 1976. 'Uppmaningar. Ett bidrag till beskrivningen av modus i svenskan' i Lundastudier i nordisk språkvetenskap. Serie D. Meddelanden nr 10.

Scheffer, J. 1975. The Progressive in English. Amsterdam

Wekker, H.C. 1976. The Expression of Future Time in Contemporary British English, North Holland Linguistic Series 28. Amsterdam and New York

APPENDIX

The texts examined consist of transcriptions of spontaneious conversation (surreptitious recording of conversation between educated British speakers; texts S1.1-S1.9, 40 000 words) surreptitious telephone conversation between personal friends (S7 c 15 000 words), spontaneous commentary (sport and non-sport, S10 40 000 words). All the texts were taken from the London-Lund Corpus of Spoken English.

Distribution of go to and will

In all the texts examined will is the predominant form.

A Spontaneous Telephone Conversation

Number of examples:

| go to | will |
|---|---|
| 49/196 (25%) | 147/196 (75%) |

B Commentary

Number of examples:

| go to | will |
|---|---|
| 36/97 (37%) | 61/97 (63%) |

C Spontaneous Conversation

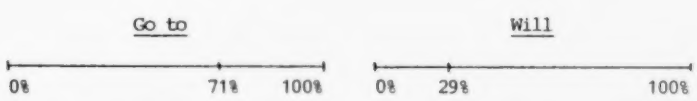
Number of examples:

| go to | will |
|---|---|
| 72/219 (32%) | 147/219 (68%) |

Total number: 157 (go to) 355 (will)

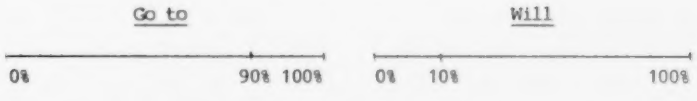
It is often difficult to say whether a certain factor is present in an example. The following quantitative investigation of the factors conditioning go to and will is therefore only tentative and heats only some factors. In particular I do not investigate how harmonizing factors affect the choice of go to and will.

INTENTION



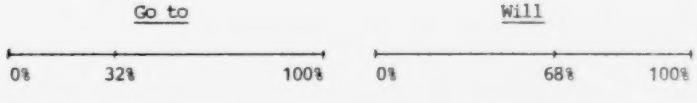

Total number of examples with the meaning Intention: 112
Number of examples with go to: 80/112 (71%)
Number of examples with will: 32/112 (29%)

PREMEDITATION



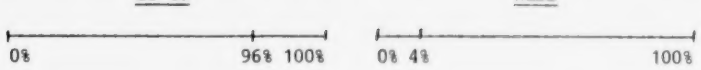

Total number of examples with the meaning Premeditation: 89
Number of examples with go to: 80/89 (90%)
Number of examples with will: 9/89 (10%)

SPEAKER-INVOLVEMENT




Total number of examples with the meaning Speaker-Involvement: 175
Number of examples with go to: 56/175 (32%)
Number of examples with will: 119/175 (68%)

IMMINENCE




Total number of examples with the meaning Imminence: 24
Number of examples with go to: 23/24 (96%)
Number of examples with will: 1/24 (4%)

PRESENCE ON THE SCENE (AND OBSERVATION)

Total number of examples with the meaning Presence on the Scene (and Observation): 13

Number of examples with go to: 9/13 (69%)
Number of examples with will: 4/13 (31%)

INFERENCE

Total number of examples with the meaning Inference: 12
Number of examples with go to: 9/12 (75%)
Number of examples with will: 3/12 (25%)

I wish to thank Mette Cathrine Jahr for help with extracting the examples from the London-Lund Corpus of Spoken English. Thanks are furthermore due to Lars-Gunnar Andersson, Östen Dahl and Göran Kjellmer for commenting on an earlier version of the manuscript.